

Assisting Constituents in the 9th Congressional District

Steven Rothman

Conservation Technical Assistance

Application for RC&D Program

NRCS staff assisted the Urban Conservation Action Partnership (UCAP) Board of Directors in preparation of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) application for Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Passaic counties. The region is the last area in New Jersey to seek RC&D Council status. Approval by the Secretary of Agriculture would increase NRCS assistance in areas such as community development, urban-rural interface, greenway and open space preservation, urban natural resource conservation, and outreach to the residents, who number more than 2 million, in the region.

River Edge Park Resource Management Plan

A new partnership is proposed for the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission in River Edge. NRCS, the Bergen County Soil Conservation District, and the Park Commission will work together to develop a comprehensive resource management plan that will address both historical uses and future recreational activities. The resource management plan will be a part of an overall park management plan that will be used to guide the park officials as they meet the needs of the residents and visitors of this historic Revolutionary War and Native American site. Some of the resource management objectives that will be addressed in the planning process are:

- Restore and maintain the backwater marshes or meadows along the Hackensack River and re-establish native flora and fauna, where possible.
- Protect, restore, and maintain the natural and cultural landscapes of the park.
- Protect scenic values and aesthetic qualities of the Hackensack Valley at New Bridge to maintain and extend one of the few spots in the valley where visitors can enjoy unspoiled vistas with minimal modern intrusion.
- Cooperate in the development of river pathways to provide visitor access for study and recreation.
- Include a natural resource component in museum exhibits to explain the natural history of the river and human impact on it.

Conservation Education and Outreach

All members of the New Jersey Conservation Partnership are actively engaged in public education and outreach. Conservation education and direct assistance to the public are ongoing priorities in your Congressional District and throughout the state.

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Soil Erosion Control

Soil Erosion and Stormwater Control Provided in Developing Areas

The NJ Conservation Partnership helps growing communities protect their soil resources from erosion. Through the State Soil Conservation Committee's erosion and sediment control regulatory program, the Soil Conservation Districts serving District 9 review and certify proposed development plans for soil erosion control before and after construction. They also review plans for stormwater control and issue permits. Local inspectors check compliance to ensure natural resource conservation on development sites.

For more information about these and other conservation issues in the 9th District, contact the Bergen County SCD: (201) 261-4407; Hudson-Essex-Passaic SCD: (973) 364-0786 or NRCS Morris Plains UCAP Service Center: (973) 538-1552. State level contacts are the SSCC: (609) 292-5540; NJACD: (973) 398-2511; NRCS: (732) 246-1171.